

**MINUTES  
CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY**

Tuesday, March 8, 2011  
6:00 pm McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 North Morton Street

**Next Meeting:**

April 12, 2011 McCloskey Room City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

Members present: Maggie Sullivan, Bill Brown, Andy Davis, Janice Lilly, David Parkhurst, Amanda Figolah, Amy Countryman, Ted Mendoza, Cynthia Schultz. Advisory member Michael Beczkiewicz was also present.

Regrets: George Huntington, Dave Rollo, Heidi Russell Wagner, Melissa Clark, Toby Strout

Staff: Jacqui Bauer, Jill Minor

Chair Maggie Sullivan called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

**Approval of the minutes:** The minutes from the February 2011 meeting were approved.

**Public comment:** None

**Announcements:**

Bloomington Community Orchard is accepting self-nominations for its board until March 31. Also, its second planting day will be April 9, using the funds from the Tom's of Maine grant.

USGBC will be offering webinars on green building issues. There will be a small fee. Dates will be publicized soon.

The Seed Swap will be at the Winter Farmers Market this Saturday.

GNN Bloomington—the Green Network News website is about ready to be launched. Heidi asked BCOS members to start using the site, sending in events and comments, etc. The website: [www.gnnbloomington.com](http://www.gnnbloomington.com)

IU was one of 20 campuses recognized this year as a Bike Friendly Campus at the Bronze level.

May 12-14 will be e-waste days on campus; May 14 is open to the public.

The Energy Challenge kickoff will be March 23.

An ordinance to create a county sustainability commission is going to the county commissioners on Friday, so they will be moving forward with that soon. Cynthia suggested that we make sure we connect with the new commission—perhaps with an ex-officio member.

**Report from the Sustainability Coordinator**

Jacqui discussed the recent visit by national biking expert Mia Birk. A number of City bike infrastructure and education initiatives are likely to evolve out of this event.

City Hall's Energy Dashboard was announced at the State of the City address, and has been made available on the City's website. This allows facilities staff and others to track building energy usage by the hour, day, week, month, and year.

Jacqui is continuing to work on the City's new purchasing policy, and finding challenges in how to minimize the use of bottled water and of Styrofoam.

\*Amanda noted the huge amount of waste generated each day during lunch at South High School. The school no longer has the ability to wash dishes, so trays and dishes are all Styrofoam. This would be a good project for a small group of BCOS members.

For Hoosier to Hoosier: Amanda's Environmental Club will take May 21; BCOS will adopt July 9, afternoon is preferable

### **Committee Reports:**

*ECPC:* Andy's first meeting with the Environmental Commission's Planning Committee will be March 10. Current projects include Bloomington Cooperative Plots and the Renwick project.

*STAR:* Committee continuing to meet every 2 weeks, working with SPEA intern Jill Minor.

\*have set draft energy targets; borrowed heavily from Philadelphia's Greenworks Plan.

Agreed upon goals, to be met by 2014:

- \*lower city govt energy consumption by 15%

- \*reduce city-wide building energy usage by 10%

- \*retrofit about 5% of housing stock—365 homes/year

- \*increase renewable energy generation and purchasing to 5%

\*Some challenges with Duke and Vectren data sets

\*How to address rental units? Will be exploring how to target landlords and renters

\*Weatherization—the committee will try to gather data from the many groups who are working on weatherization to show how

\*the group will also look for sources of money to help defray the cost and/or provide loans of weatherization improvements

The group voted to approve these targets. The STAR committee will work with Communications to publicize them.

*Water:* The committee has met a few times and targeting a rainbarrel workshop in mid- to end of April. Jacqui will work with Melissa to find a place to store and to transport the barrels.

They are holding off on further work on the "Little Drip" until CBU moves forward with their water conservation position. The costume is on hold.

*Energy:* working on STAR report.

*Food:* Has not met. Janice will be coordinating a future meeting.

The next Food Policy Council meeting is on April 13<sup>th</sup>. Location is uncertain.

*Communications:* See the announcement above about the GNN website.

Maggie asked if there were any follow-up on the transportation discussion during last month's meeting. The group discussed the possible advantages of BCOS taking a stand on the issue. Andy will compose a proposed resolution for discussion at the next meeting.

Maggie also lead a discussion of BCOS's direction for the next year. Possible projects of interest include simple activities like adopting an H2H volunteer day or more complex undertakings like tackling transit system issues, helping the MCCSC with their waste issues, etc.

Cynthia commented that it would be great to attach BCOS's undertakings to specific targets outlined in the STAR report.

Taking on specific projects like the recent recommendation for reformatting of the water bill to provide better information to customers may be a good strategy—specific and targeted projects. Another specific project is the 45/46 bypass—Heidi noted that Milestone (the contractor) is not implementing erosion control as they should. BCOS may be able to encourage more responsibility.

Maggie asked people to come to the next meeting with activities

The meeting adjourned at 7:06pm.